

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A switch device for starting and stopping an engine, the switch device comprising:

a key cylinder having a key slot; and

a push button switch pushed to stop or start the engine, the push button switch including a push button surrounding the key slot, wherein application of a pushing force to said push button moves said push button inward independent of inward movement of said key cylinder, and wherein the key cylinder is rotatable independently from the push button switch when a mechanical key is inserted into the key slot.

2. (Currently amended) The switch device according to claim 1, wherein the key slot is adapted to receive[[s]] a mechanical key having a transponder, and the push button includes a communicating means ~~that communicates~~ for communicating with the transponder of the mechanical key.

3. (Original) The switch device according to claim 1, wherein the push button has a central portion through which a hole extends to receive the key cylinder.

4. (Withdrawn) The switch device according to claim 1, wherein the push button has a central portion separated from a hole that receives the key cylinder.

5. (Original) The switch device according to claim 1, wherein the key cylinder includes a rotor having an end face through which the key slot extends, with the push button being flush with the end face of the rotor.

6. (Withdrawn) The switch device according to claim 1, wherein the key cylinder includes a rotatable rotor that becomes pushable after being rotated, the push button being configured to move simultaneously with the rotor when the rotor is pushed.

7. (Withdrawn) The switch device according to claim 6, wherein the rotor includes a flange, and the push button includes a stopper engaged with the flange to move the push button together with the rotor when the rotor is pushed.

8. (Withdrawn) The switch device according to claim 6, wherein the key cylinder includes a rotor case for accommodating the rotor, and the switch device further comprises a spring arranged between the push button and the rotor case to urge the push button.

9. (Withdrawn) The switch device according to claim 6, wherein the key cylinder includes a rotor case for accommodating the rotor, a circuit board arranged in the rotor case, and a spring arranged between the circuit board and an end wall of the rotor case to urge the circuit board toward the rotor.

10. (Withdrawn) The switch device according to claim 6, wherein the rotor includes a tab extending from its outer surface, the key cylinder includes a rotor case for accommodating the rotor, and the rotor case includes a guide groove formed at an inner surface of the rotor case for guiding the tab of the rotor.

11. (Withdrawn) The switch device according to claim 10, wherein the guide groove includes a first guide groove extending in a circumferential direction of the rotor and a second guide groove extending in a longitudinal direction of the rotor.

12. (Currently amended) A switch device for starting and stopping an engine, the switch device comprising:

a key cylinder having a key slot; and

a push button switch pushed to stop or start the engine, the push button switch including a push button, and the key slot being arranged in the push button, wherein application of a pushing force to said push button moves said push button inward independent of inward movement of said key cylinder, and wherein the key cylinder is rotatable independently from the push button switch when a mechanical key is inserted into the key slot.

13. (Currently amended) A switch device for starting ~~or~~ and stopping an engine, the switch device comprising:

a key cylinder having a key slot ~~for receiving~~ adapted to receive a mechanical key, the mechanical key including a transponder having a communication function; and

a push button switch pushed to stop or start the engine, the push button switch including a push button having a hole, the push button including a communicating means for communicating with the transponder, and the key slot being arranged in the hole of the push button, wherein application of a pushing force to said push button moves said push button inward independent of inward movement of said key cylinder, and wherein the key cylinder is rotatable independently from the push button switch when a mechanical key is inserted into the key slot.

14. (Withdrawn) The switch device according to claim 13, wherein the key cylinder includes a pushable rotor having a flange, and the push button includes a topper engaged with the flange to move the push button together with the rotor when the rotor is pushed.

15. (Original) The switch device according to claim 13, wherein the push button has a central portion through which the hole extends.

16. (Withdrawn) The switch device according to claim 13, wherein the push button has a central portion separated from the hole.

17. (Original) The switch device according to claim 13, wherein the communicating means includes an antenna coil.